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COMMUNICATOR



WESS **LAUNCHES** WGS-8 SATELLITE INTO SPACE

By Ms. Elizabeth Jacobs, Senior Program Analyst, and Mr. Rod Thompson, Assistant Product Manager, WESS



A United Launch Alliance Delta 4 rocket launches WGS-8. Photo by Launch Photography

At 6:53 p.m. on Dec. 7, the thunderous roar of a Delta IV rocket shattered a quiet evening at the launch center of Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. Bundled into the cargo capsule of the rocket was Wideband Global Satellite (WGS)-8, worth approximately \$300 million and representing the efforts of the Army's Wideband Enterprise Satellite Systems (WESS) Wideband Control team. On hand to observe the launch were BG Patrick Burden, PEO EIS, COL Charles Stein, project

manager, Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems, and LTC Joel Babbitt, product lead, WESS. Once deployed, the software and hardware products fielded by WESS will provide operational control of the satellite payload throughout the satellite's lifespan. The core of that payload control is the Wideband SATCOM Operations Management System (WSOMS) which provides defense satellite communications control for joint force and allied nations worldwide.

To ensure compatibility with the WGS-8 payload, the WESS team performed software updates to six WSOMS subsystems and hardware updates to three of those subsystems. Each subsystem is an integral part of the WSOMS and the updates were required in order to support all eight of the WGS satellites now in orbit. The updates also supported the added requirement of the Wideband Digital Channelizer to the WGS, which enables dual polarization communications and provides an 80 percent increase in available bandwidth for the Soldier — a significant increase in the density of the global coverage WGS affords. "This upgrade will increase the bandwidth available to deployed forces and improves the Army's readiness for the full range of today's threats," said the product officer responsible for the effort, Mr. Isaac Gusman, Jr. "These enhancements to strategic satellite communications capabilities significantly increase the speed and global reach of information while connecting the global Army."

Additionally, the updates required an Integrated Systems Readiness Test (iSRT) to independently verify the probability for successful operation of software and hardware. The iSRT is a significant undertaking that further validates the accuracy of maintenance procedures and trouble-free operations for the user. It tested compatibility between four simulated Wideband SATCOM Operating Centers, two Remote Monitoring and Control Equipment (RMCE) sites and 11 simulated satellites over the course of nine weeks. "Part of the challenge we face with this type of upgrade is that there is no margin for error," said Mr. Gusman. "If your computer software update is interrupted midstream and you have to reboot, it's frustrating, but not the end of the world. If an update to WGS software does something unexpected or causes us to lose contact with a satellite, it's much more difficult than restarting a computer. So everything must be tested and proven out successfully on the ground prior to implementation." The updated WSOMS is now capable of supporting the next generation of WGS beginning with WGS-8 as well as WGS-1 through 7 satellites. The next WGS satellite is planned for launch on March 8, and the planned launch of WGS-10 will complete the constellation by 2019.

P2E **MEETS** WITH INDUSTRY

By Ms. Rosalie Fehrmann, Strategic Communications Specialist, P2E



LTC Gregory Soulé addresses the audience during P2E's Information Exchange on Nov. 11.

LTC Gregory Soulé, product manager, Power Projection Enablers (P2E), hosted an information exchange for industry partners on Nov. 11 in Howell Auditorium at the Defense Acquisition University on Fort Belvoir. Much like an industry day, P2E invited vendors to gather in one location and presented them with a preliminary view of the upcoming request for proposals (RFPs) with projected contract awards in fiscal year (FY) 2017.

LTC Soulé led the information exchange with a presentation of the eight projects expected to award across P2E's regions, which include the Pacific, Southwest Asia and Europe. The intent of the event was to help bolster industry and government relationships, as well as increase quality and quantity of future proposals and

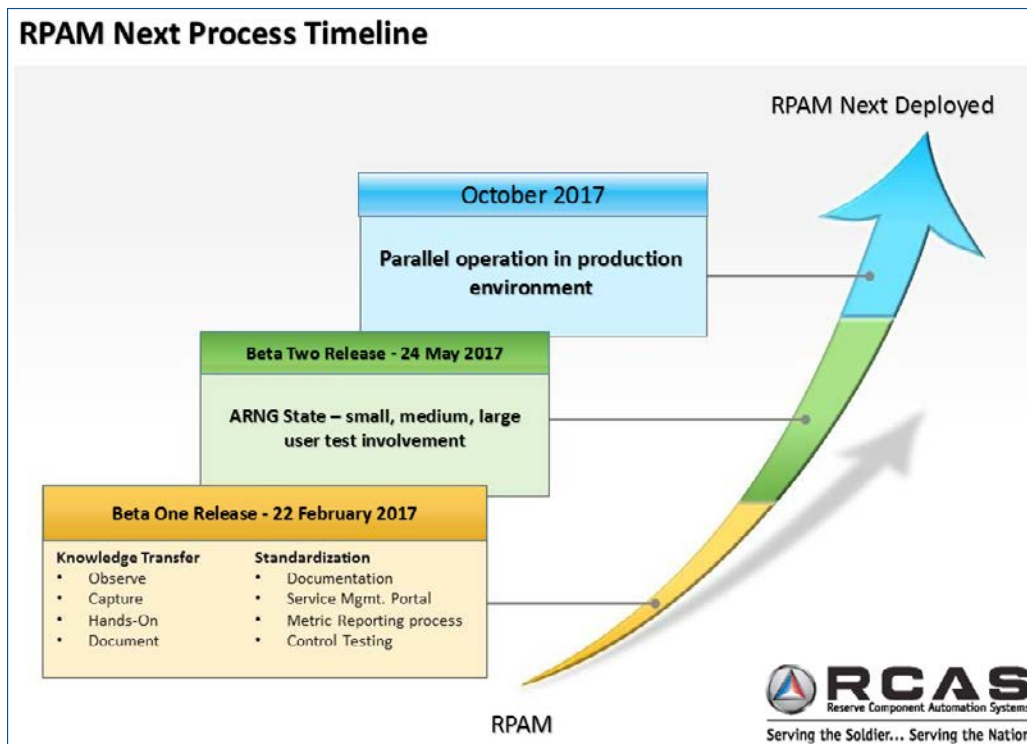
industry partner involvement. Nearly 70 participants from 42 companies attended including the primary contracting office, Army Contracting Command – Rock Island.

In closing remarks, P2E received great feedback from attendees including Ms. Terry Watson, Deputy PEO EIS, who mentioned that P2E was “doing it right” and it was great to see a real discussion happen between industry and government. Overall, attendees and participants agreed that the event provided the guidance and insight that industry partners can use to better serve crucial projects and missions. LTC Soulé intends to host another information exchange in the future when additional and new information is available to share with industry partners.



RPAM NEXT – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

By MAJ Shakena L. Evans, Personnel Applications Product Owner, RCAS



The Reserve Component Automation Systems (RCAS) Retirement Points Accounting Management (RPAM) application is being reengineered to support modernization and improve functionality. Starting in fiscal year 2018, all RPAM users will see the new “RPAM Next” application link to the reengineered RPAM application. The need to reengineer RPAM stems from Microsoft’s deployment of Windows 10 and RCAS’s reliance on the browser plug-in Microsoft Silverlight to deliver content to its users. With Windows 10, not only does the new browser, Edge,

not support plug-ins, but Microsoft no longer intends to develop Silverlight and will completely end the product by 2021. Therefore, RCAS has decided to start converting to supported alternatives, including Edge. Meanwhile, Internet Explorer (IE) 11 will still be included on the Army Gold Master image for Windows 10 to provide RCAS users with full access to all the features of RPAM and RPAM Next.

Once RPAM and the rest of the RCAS suite of applications are modified and compatibility with Edge is in place, RCAS will announce the availability of Edge to the user community. Additionally, the RPAM reengineering will reduce dependencies on the current proprietary database for RCAS applications and information exchanges, with a vendor-agnostic database that provides an overall better value in terms of licensing, maintenance costs and technical functionality.

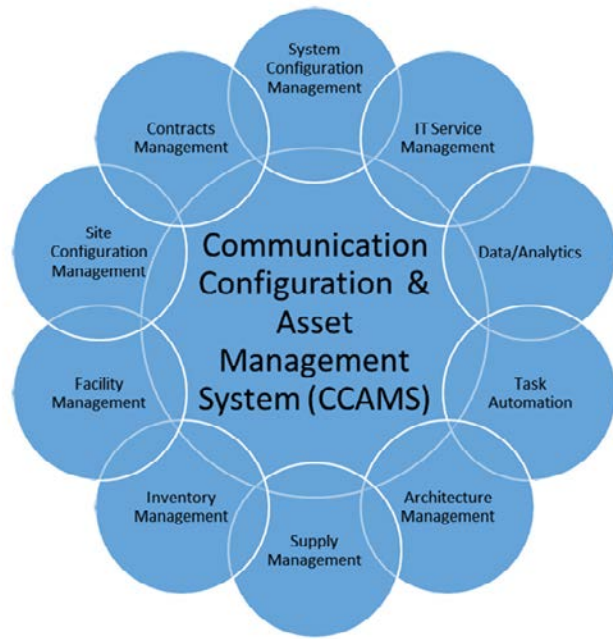
RPAM is designed to account for and report on retirement points for ARNG Soldiers and determine retirement eligibility and qualification based on years of creditable service. Due to its critical function, RCAS’s objective is to keep the current RPAM user interface and overall functionality the same for a seamless transition. To achieve this, the RPAM team will be conducting parallel operations in the production environment.

The RPAM reengineering is extensive and will require volunteers from Army National Guard (ARNG) states/sites to support beta testing. Functional users and the data processing community from participating beta sites will need to fully commit to completing the beta testing with the full support of the RCAS RPAM Next team. The team will coordinate with potential beta test sites in the coming months to ensure that the reengineered RPAM application is deployed on schedule in October 2017.

If you are interested in being a volunteer state/site or need more information about RPAM Next please contact the RCAS Personnel Product Owner, MAJ Shakena Evans by phone at 703-806-3149 or email at shakena.l.evans.mil@mail.mil.

SATCOM CONFIGURATION MANAGEMENT

By Mr. Carl Morris, Project Officer, Baseband Systems, WESS



As satellite communications (SATCOM) technologies advance, the amount and complexity of systems required to manage SATCOM increase. This presents a challenge to the U.S. Army's Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM), which must keep pace with data collection and configuration management of the joint force's SATCOM and terrestrial communication assets. As the networks evolve, so the systems that manage the networks must evolve. The Wideband Control Management System developed to address configuration management requirements for SATCOM facilities is dated and needs a complete overhaul to meet the growing need. To close the gap, Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems (DCATS) initiated the Communications Configuration and Asset Management System project, or CCAMS, to generate a centralized configuration and asset management system under the authority of Wideband Enterprise Satellite Systems (WESS). The project lead, Mr. Scott Seybold, and his team intend to create an efficient requirements-based approach to manage and maintain the facility configuration of these assets during their life cycle. The CCAMS team's objective is to save the Army money

over the next five years and help manage the modernization and configuration of the enterprise gateways.

The CCAMS initiative is a compilation of processes and automated tools that promote consistency and track network change. CCAMS will comprehensively manage data and allow users to develop future requirements while managing acquisition needs. Reports from CCAMS will provide DCATS and NETCOM leadership a means to structure a well-designed management strategy and maintain the initiative in an ever-evolving SATCOM environment. The system affords users a holistic view by which to manage facilities, systems and services in a scalable environment that can grow into the future. WESS is developing this solution today and anticipates testing a proof of concept during fiscal year 2017.

JANUARY 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

EVENTS

2 JAN
New Year's Day (observed)

16 JAN
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

20 JAN
Inauguration Day

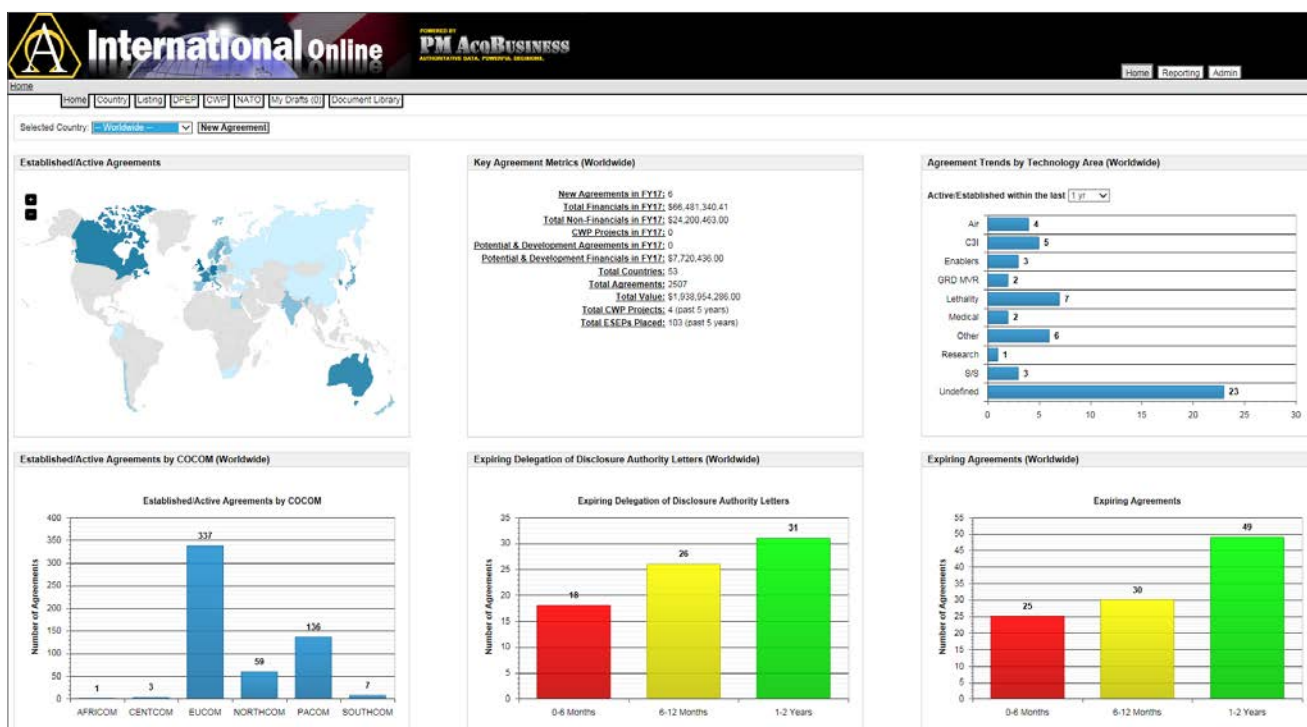
INTERNATIONAL ONLINE APPLICATION HELPING THE ARMY MEET FUTURE CAPABILITIES NEEDS

By Mr. Michael Prater, Strategic Planning Analyst, DASA DE&C, and Ms. Diane Pollard, Strategic Communications, AcqBusiness

Recent updates to the International Online (IOL) application have enhanced visibility of the Army's cooperative research and development agreements with foreign partners. Originally designed for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Defense Exports and Cooperation (DASA DE&C) to function solely as a data repository for housing and maintaining international agreements, IOL needed an update to adapt to current user needs. DASA DE&C staff worked with Acquisition Business (AcqBusiness) to identify requirements that would expand the transparency and visibility of the IOL application. The result was integrated business intelligence to highlight key IOL metrics, enhanced reporting capabilities and the ability to track additional international cooperation programs. "Users kept asking us, 'what else can IOL do?' so we used input from our stakeholders to create enhancements to meet their needs," said Mr. Michael Prater, Strategic Planning Analyst at DASA DE&C. "The result is a common operating picture mechanism for the community to utilize and assist them with matching an Army need with non-U.S. developed technology."

Enhancements to transparency of the Army's international cooperation agreements repository increases visibility of collaboration opportunities. Users are excited about the increased ability to leverage the IOL data, which will better assist them in identifying opportunities to help meet future Army capability needs. Other recent enhancements include new visual features such as a world map of active agreements, charts and graphs of different agreement elements, greatly improved navigation and new Defense Personnel Exchange Program and North American Treaty Organization pages.

IOL is available through the Army Acquisition Business Enterprise Portal: <https://acqdomain.army.mil>.



THE START OF SOMETHING NEW FOR LMP AND ITS SUSTAINMENT DIVISION

By Ms. Christine Irving, Public Affairs, LMP

After nearly two decades of support from lead system integrator CSRA (formerly Computer Sciences Corporation) in Marlton, New Jersey, the Logistics Modernization Program (LMP) has successfully brought sustainment in house. In June, LMP transitioned over to the Communications – Electronics Command (CECOM) Software Engineering Center (SEC) LMP Sustainment Division (SD) at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey, and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. The transition was originally scheduled for completion in December to coincide with the end of the contract, but was completed three months ahead of schedule. This transition of service represents one of the largest sustainment operations moves from a contractor to government-led organization in Army history. Furthermore, LMP has become the first of the Army enterprise resource planning (ERP) programs to make the transition.

“This transition demonstrates the government’s ability to successfully support ERPs in house,” said LTC Rob Williams, product manager, LMP. “Since transition completed in June 2016, the LMP SD has been doing its job as planned with no impact to users over what CSRA provided, proving they were ready, willing and able to take on this large and critical support effort.” The LMP SD is now solely responsible for system sustainment, regularly scheduled enhancements and managing tickets and system fixes. With other ERPs slated to transition to the government in the near future, the LMP effort serves as an example that strategic planning and teamwork can deliver government-led excellence for Soldier support.

CHESS BRIEFS DEPUTY CIO/G-6 AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

By Ms. Tricia Shelley, Public Affairs, CHES



Computer Hardware Enterprise Software and Solutions (CHES) was invited to present the new reverse auction capability to Mr. Gary Wang, Deputy CIO/G-6, at the CIO/G-6 Executive Board meeting on Nov. 15 in McLean, Virginia. Mr. Doug Haskin, product lead, CHES, and Mr. Michael Lucas, a subject matter expert at CHES, briefed Mr. Wang and the board on the benefits of using a reverse auction to solicit commercial off-the-shelf IT

hardware and software and provided a live demo of the reverse auction capability.

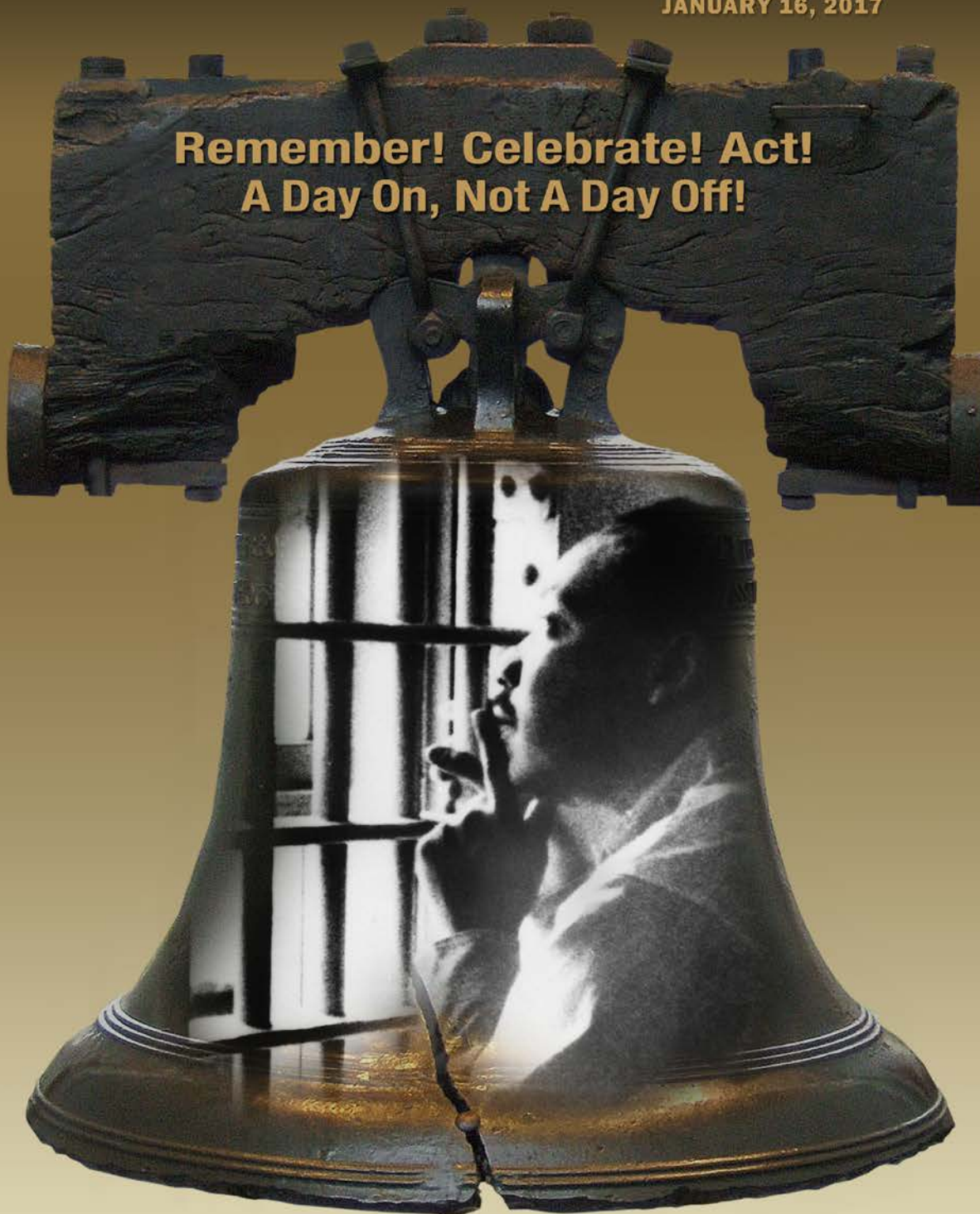
“This briefing to all of the CIOs and senior technical staff across the Army is amazing exposure for not only CHES reverse auction, but the entire CHES program. It’s exciting to see and be a part of great discussion about several issues that directly impact the CHES mission. This enables success of reverse auction and all of our contracts,” said Mr. Lucas. The briefing concluded with a question and answer discussion followed by closing remarks from Mr. Wang urging the use of reverse auction across all commands.

If you would like to learn more or to attend a training session on how to use reverse auction, please contact Ms. Tricia Shelley at tricia.a.shelley.ctr@mail.mil.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

JANUARY 16, 2017

Remember! Celebrate! Act!
A Day On, Not A Day Off!



“Let freedom ring...”



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